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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT 01 NEA 07 ADS 00 PPT 01 SY 05 SYF 00 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
INSE-00 /020 W

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REVIEWED BY 45 JL DATE 8/10/81

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9723

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E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS - CPAS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW OF ORIGINAL FOI EXEMPTIONS

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS AND PICTURES OF BLACK HEBREWS

REF: A) 1979 TEL AVIV 23353; B) TEL AVIV 11223;

C) STATE 057037; D) TEL AVIV 10270; E) STATE 164058

POST SUSPECTS POSSIBLE FRAUD INVOLVED IN ISSUING REPLACE

MENT PASSPORTS FOR MEMBERS OF BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY

LOCATED IN DIMONA, ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH FOR SOME TIME,

EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED CABLE VERIFICATION PRIOR TO PASSPORT

REPLACEMENT. IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT GENERAL

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS ARE VERY SIMILAR FOR ALL COMMUNITY

MEMBERS, I.E. BLACK HAIR AND BLACK EYES. IF APPLICANT

FRAUDULENTLY PROVIDES CORRECT PARENTAL NAMES AND DOB,

SUBSEQUENT DEPARTMENTAL CABLE VERIFICATIONS DO NOT NECESSA-

RILY ESTABLISH TRUE IDENTITY.

PREVIOUS MESSAGES (ABOVE REFTELS) INDICATE EXTENSIVE

PASSPORT FRAUD INVOLVING BLACK HEBREWS. UPON THEIR ENTRY

INTO THE DIMONA COMMUNITY, EACH MEMBER RELINQUISHES HIS HER

PASSPORT TO THE COMMUNITY'S LEADER, BEN AMI CARTER. SIXTY

SIX BLACK HEBREWS RENOUNCED THEIR U.S. CITIZENSHIP APPROXI-

MATELY SEVEN YEARS AGO; INCREASING NUMBERS ARE NOW INTERES-

SED IN RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES.

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POST IS UNABLE TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY EACH INDIVIDUAL AS

NAMES ARE INTERCHANGED. FOR EXAMPLE, TWO WEEKS AGO, AN

INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS ONE PERSON, BUT LATER

IDENTIFIED HERSELF IN THE VISA SECTION AS HER SISTER. BOTH

HAD EXPATRIATED THEMSELVES IN 1973 AND BOTH SIGNATURES ON

THE EXPATRIATION PAPERS ARE SIMILAR ENOUGH TO CAUSE US

GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN IDENTIFYING WITH JUST WHOM WE ARE

DEALING.

FURTHERMORE, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE CONSULAR SECTION

(REFTEL B) THAT THE CONFISCATED PASSPORTS ARE USED BY

NON-US CITIZENS AS WELL AS US CITIZENS SOUGHT BY THE F.B.I.

FOR UNLAWFUL ACTS IN THE UNITED STATES. ADDITIONALLY, WE

HAVE LEARNED THAT DEATHS IN THE COMMUNITY ARE NOT ALWAYS

REPORTED TO THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. AND IT IS POSSIBLE

INDIVIDUALS COULD ADOPT ANOTHER'S IDENTITY.

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IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICANTS, POST
WILL FORWARD BY COURIER POUCH ALL ORIGINAL PASSPORT
APPLICATIONS AND PICTURES INVOLVING BLACK HEBREWS FOR
REVIEW BY THE DEPARTMENT. PLEASE VERIFY CONTENTS WITH
PREVIOUS APPLICANTS' APPLICATIONS BY CABLE REPEAT BY
CABLE ASAP UPON RECEIPT IN DEPARTMENT AS MOST APPLICANTS
WILL BE ON SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES SUBSISTANCE UNTIL
THEIR REPATRIATION TO THE STATES.

CONFIRMATION OF DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN THIS SPECIAL
PROCEDURE FOR BLACK HEBREW APPLICATIONS IS REQUESTED.

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